



Treasure New and Old    Matthew 13:52    C. Gordon Wolcott

You shall be holy unto Me, for I the Lord am holy. I will walk among you and I shall be your God and you shall be My people. I have severed you from other people, that you might be holy. You shall be holy unto Me, for I the Lord am holy!

And so for their sake, I am sanctifying Myself, that they also may become sanctified in Truth. Jhn. 17:19

## BE SEPARATE

As we become a little more familiar with the content of the Bible - its words, its dramas and its patterns, we come to understand that even in our generation there have been important events occurring on pre-determined dates. At the moment most of them occurred, we had little to no knowledge of their importance in connection with fulfillment of the plan of God for man. Now we understand we might have been able to have seen closer relationships, if we had had the training early enough. There were several dates in the 1930's having to do with world depression and the dictatorships of Stalin, Mussolini, and Hitler, and the frightening moves of the Japanese in the Far East - all linking with the breaking of the Seals of Rev. 6. There was the beginning of what became World War II and the discovery of how to employ nuclear energy for immense destruction - linking with the blowing of the Trumpets of Rev. 8. All of these developments were important in shaping the fulfillment of prophecy. Then there was the re-birth of the nation of Israel in 1948. Other important dates followed - 1949, 1956 and 1957, 1967, 1970, 1973, 1978, and 1982.

We rarely homed in in advance on what event actually was to take place, only learning later it was something related to what was anticipated and was of great significance. But all led to the understanding that each indeed had a part in the overall preparations for the early graduation of the Firstfruits. Each of the dates was important. Now we see March and April and May, 1984 or 1985, January, 1986 or 1987, and September, 1987 or 1988, as extremely important junctures in time. We are also being told repeatedly in the Bible - through its patterns - and by the Lord's messengers that the Father earnestly waits for and wants His children to wake up to priorities, to come to greater understanding of why the

principles and elements of His plan must be as they are, and begin to live and act reasonably on a continuous basis, not just periodically.

Surely we approach the fulness of time in this phase of the Father's instruction for helping man to realize dominion over his self-seeking, emotional nature. We are at the closing period of the six 1000 year "days" since Adam's fall. Surely we also approach a culminating separation process. Those who have given enough attention to the lessons to see their value will act on them, in some measure. Others will neither give the required attention nor engage themselves in learning to live, without the more severe treatment of Great Tribulation. The separation must be very soon if it is to fall within the generation born in 1948. If we derive the Bible generation from the several measures in Old and New Testaments, we find there are 36 to 40 years per generation. These patterns are symbolized in the Christian era. If we remember the promise that this generation which sees the budding and leafing out of Israel as a nation will not pass away before all prophecy concerning this age completes, and add 40 years to 1948, we have until the end of September, 1988, for the completion of the age - at the very latest. Yet the Lord said the initiation of His coming will be a surprise for almost all (Matt.24:43-44). Traditional religionists cannot agree on how to balance the certainty against the uncertainty.

For more than 15 years, some of us have been listening to teaching which has included much predictive comment on runaway inflation with depression, the progressive collapse of the national economies and currencies, new diseases and disquieting variants of others, frightening pollution of land and water - as well as air, skyrocketing violent crime, people in rebellion engulfing cities and nations, unusually bad weather as the new world-wide norm, critical short-

ages of food, fresh water, petroleum, gas and many metals, earthquakes increasing in number and intensity, military supremacy of Russia - including nuclear supremacy, and World War III - featuring the eventual wild and indiscriminant use of all nuclear weapons available. The inevitable result would be the destruction of all flesh on earth, without the Lord Jesus Christ's personal intervention (Matt.24:22). Already we have seen all of these in a measure of development, many in considerable measure. Ten years ago, even some of these developments in our lifetime appeared illogical. Now they all are with us, except the final collapse and the fighting of World War III.

Who has ever before seen so much rebellion against decent law and order as is coming from the almost innumerable groups now seeking selfish advantage? When has such widespread rebellion ever affected so many uninvolved people so seriously? Who can understand our previous administration's insistence on insuring a Soviet advantage of 7 times our nuclear fire-power by the mid-1980's? How could the thought even be logically entertained, with the long-term background of Soviet duplicity and well-publicized intent to destroy the United States of America? The unwitting tools of Satan get abundant support, and the deluge will come; but woe to him who helps bring it on. How is it possible for men who view themselves as "born-again" Christians, who profess being led by Christ, who read the Bible and also teach from the Bible, to be so completely unaware that nominal Christendom and the rest of mankind will not only be unable to engineer world peace, but will actually bring on the dreaded nuclear war that will annihilate all flesh on earth - except Jesus Christ Himself rushes in at the last moment to put an end to man's insanity.

Most of you will certainly see the USA missile

plantations blown up by over 300 giant Russian ICBMs, which arsenal our previous administration supported while trying to sell you and me on the logic that the exclusive stock of those giants in Russia will help keep the peace. Their missiles will detonate our own ICBMs on our own land, adding our own nuclear fallout to that of the Russian giants. All the land east of our west coast will be blanketed with lethal residue. How you should be praying for our nation and state and neighborhood! Remember the Lord once said He would have mercy, if there were but 10 truly faithful in the land (Gen. 18:32). Almighty God, the Keeper of all flesh, does not change. He later promised to spare Jerusalem, if but one could be found doing justice, seeking truth and sincerity and faithfulness (Jer. 5:1).

Do we hear a rush of feet, running to become uncompromisingly righteous? To reach that goal requires considerable teaching on that which is truly right. But there must also be seekers of truth, if even the best teaching is to be effective. Who can be taught? Throughout history, some have always been unteachable. From our Lord, we read it is only those who become wholly separated from milk which is the tainted teaching and coaching and example of the adulterous wife (Isa. 28:9, Hos. 2:2-3, Rev. 17:3-5, 18:7-8). Clearly we have been shown again and again the importance of becoming separated from all that hinders man's coming into God's likeness. That separation is part of becoming "holy", an important part, if the resultant great vacuum is quickly filled with Truth and Light and the Spirit of doing the will of the Father (Matt. 7:21, Jhn. 14:6).

Who then is the one advancing toward the holiness of "him in Christ" and "Christ in him"? He who practices only that for which the Father's plan calls. Only after much practice, can Christ be seen in him, even as Jesus said His disciples could see His Father in

Him (Jhn. 14:9). Nothing less constitutes the holiness required for graduation from a war-torn earth (Rev. 22:11-15). What then must the priorities become? How much change in activities must be implemented, without violating God-given responsibilities? How much more separation must take on form and substance, and where? Or do we buy the more comfortable thought-transplant that "enough holiness is enough", that by comparison to most other Christians, we surely by now must be satisfactory to the Father? If so many are satisfactory to Him, why are things still going wrong in their lives? Where are the personal fulfillments of the Father's promises to each one firmly on His pathway - no sickness, protection from all enemies, no tribulation, every need satisfied, every legitimate request granted.

The separation for which He calls is not a level at which you arrive and then it is all done, complete and finished. This separation is seen to be both progressive and constant, level after level. It is the maintaining of balance and it is the carrying out of right choices, as new awareness and learning take place. The first level of this separation, or holiness, is a concentration on the plan designed by the Father. Today, the essence of holiness is the development of love for Him - which encompasses recognition of what He has done for you and for me, trust, faith, adherence and our feedback in righteous accomplishment. That takes time, attention and effort to build. In this earth school, we are to learn and continue to learn the separation needful in business, in government, in Church and even in marriage. We are to constantly find the righteous balance as conditions change. The call for new decision making is continuous as understanding increases. There is no let-up.

Were we ready for the actual April 1978 and 1981 events and able to sort and separate out the emotions of anticipation in both joy and fear, of disappointment

and pride, and of logic in its proper balance? Certainly not everyone, if any one, was really ready, even though it was repeatedly stated a month or more before each event that conditions probably had not developed sufficiently to guarantee an April rapture. The subsequent disappointments clearly showed at least some lack of understanding of the Lord's plan and the teachings here on it. Do you remember how many times our Lord warned that He would surprise some of those who are His disciples, by coming in secrecy in the night's darkness? And do you also remember He promised He would do nothing without first telling of it to His prophets? (Rev. 3:3, Amos 3:7, Matt. 10:26). Those are statements of promise to be weighed out so as to arrive at an understanding of their consistency, one with the other. And that calls for separation from the traditions of man presented as the Word of God.

The wise and merciful Keeper of all flesh plainly says, "Be ye holy, because I am holy" (1Pet. 1:14-16). He is a jealous God (Keeper) - jealous for the well-being of His beloved children, His Church house; nothing will be permitted to interfere with impunity (Nahum 1:2, Ps. 69:9, Isa. 9:7). Since the beginning, He has planned and required that each one become as His likeness (Gen. 1:26). From what then are we to become separate - the world? Yes, in a sense. But why does He say that, if He made the world for man's habitation? (Jhn. 17:15) The world is a needed classroom for rebellious humans and the world provides the necessary object lessons for maturing. From the lessons, we should learn separation from all which hinders the learning of Truth and its practice. In His plan, all are to become separate from everything which is not part of the plan for teaching and instilling Light and Life. But as inflation accelerates and depression deepens, more and more we will see others, if not ourselves also, trying to pack in as much enjoyment



and as many "good memories" as possible, before it is no longer possible.

It is not that we are prohibited from enjoying our selves, or each other, or God's world. It is that there is an urgent call, today especially, to discipline one's self and one's group into those things which build permanence. Our loving Father says that will bring joy overflowing. The joy of successfully having become trained, with the Father's complete protection and support, into great skill far surpasses the temporary joy of playing hooky.

There is an extensive history of separations behind us for our instruction. Among them were those of the Garden of Eden, Cain, Noah, Abram, Jacob, Esau, the Exodus, Mt. Seir, the 10 northern tribes of Israel to Assyria, Judah to Babylon and back, the Disciples, the Church to Constantine, St. Augustine, Waldo, Huss, Luther, etc. Each was a level of separation. Why did they separate or become separated? As dramatized in the examples, we are called to train ourselves in separation from all which is unworthy and destructive to the Divine plan and to all that builds and preserves. Then having reached one level of beneficial separation, we are expected to go on to the next level, instead of lingering on in the attainment reached. Almost all in history have done just that, thwarting the carrying out of the Father's plan, but this is the generation in which at least a few must not linger. True followers of Christ, implementing His righteousness in this generation must carry the separation further - to the level of acceptability called for in the Firstfruits. After that, it is to go even further into the higher level of acceptability called for in the Harvest company. Otherwise, the Father's accomplishment among men of this age will be incomplete.

Of course, as progress is made, the competition from other pleasures will lessen and difficulties of

the environment will draw multitudes toward God's training in preparation for the climax of the ages. You see it developing. More and more, there must be the question and answer, "what do I have time for"? More and more, we will come to see things in which we have engaged and things in which we could engage having to be put on the balance and weighed for priority. Is it a separating from hindrances? Is it a joining in an inadequate substitute, which actually adds to the hindrances?

There is no question about our now entering a time calling for more and more concentration on learning and living the Word of God. His plan in that Word is for the benefit of the whole being of man, spirit, soul and body. But the urgency can not mean no sleep, no eating, no rest, no change of pace, no exercise and no relaxation. However, it does mean more thoughtful and goal-directed decisions on how much, and how often, and how intense. Even though the Bible says a little of this or that is good and profitable, it does not always follow that a lot more must be better.

We have come to where we are by process, during an immense period of time. Originally, the process was initiated by our becoming separated from the Father and His plan for Life. Today, there must be a reversal, but again by process. We must take on separation from everything introduced as a substitute for the steps leading up to Life. That reversal is true repentance. The process takes time and effort. But by His sacrifice on the Cross, the time span and effort needed for accomplishment of the reversal has been reduced to what can now be finished in a single lifetime - in potential. What an investment He made! What love urged Him into that awesome day, and what greater love resulted from the experience! But we must learn to recognize the substitutions which have been and are being followed in place of what the Fa-

ther is teaching. Many times you have heard teaching on the danger of things or attitudes which hinder or subvert the plan for Life. Perhaps a largely misleading impression has been left, that the separation is mainly from the grossly evil things which are obvious and easy to distinguish. That is often true, but the most perilous things are those which seem all right to the unlearned, and are not. Effective and profitable separation necessarily becomes a step after step process. The further we get into the process, the more important it becomes to get to the bottom of all things so we can get to the top step in the Father's plan - even by leaving some good things - separating the wheat from the chaff in our lives. Chaff makes a comfortable bed for sleeping.

How far is it necessary for the separating process to reach? As far as there are hindrances to learning and living God's plan for total preservation. The Lord warned His disciples that a man's enemies can or will be of his own house or family. That truth holds for many individuals who sincerely seek the Lord, even in measure. It also holds for nations. Look to formerly Christian Russia, until recently a large part of the family of Christian nations. By long-term lack of attention on separation totally to the Lord's plan, by ignoring His explicit instructions on keeping separate from godless philosophies and those practicing them, our "Christian" leaders have, in effect, built up a Soviet Russia which will bring on the destruction of this country. A man's enemies will be from his own house.

We will become more and more aware how this foreseen development of one's house enemies will affect Church groups and individuals determined to follow the Lamb wherever He goes. Always the opposition will develop from a warring against greater truth or against tighter discipline (Lk. 12:51-53). What is the answer? The answer to opposition is

neither that of caving in to pressure nor of compromising for immediate but temporary gain. That is the natural response of selfish mankind. The answer is ever more discipline of self into learning and practicing the plan given by our Lord (Lk. 12:54-57). The answer is ever more prayer and worship to open wider the channels of recall and clarification of understanding and strengthening to follow through (Ps. 109:1-4, Jhn. 14:26, 16:13). Where one trusts the Father implicitly, there is constant rejoicing and thanksgiving and praise for Him in each and every thing coming that one's way. With that, the loving Father will involve Himself to help in the separating from all hindrances (Ps. 119:7, 14-18, 31-37). However, we know from experience and from the dramas in the Word of God that even a partial response brings a partial success. Therefore, let us at least go through the motions of rejoicing and thanking and praising. If no more, it will count as incipient trust.

Isn't it enough to be a Christian, a follower of Christ? Yes, but not according to the popular definition of "Christian". Shouldn't we shun any approach to becoming "holier than thou"? (Isa. 65:5) The answer is clear - if we look to the wholeness of the concept of holiness in the fulness of the Word of God. In many places, the beauty of holiness is cited (Ps. 29:2, 96:9). We are advised to worship Him in holiness. He disciplines us that we might partake of His own holiness, a holiness without which no one will ever see the Lord (Heb. 12:10, 14). Why is it that to most Christians, and even to most of the rest of them from time to time, the loving Father is so high and mighty and far off as to be unapproachable? That is teaching from which all must become separate! (Isa. 40:27-31, Heb. 13:5-6, Deut. 4:29-31, Jer. 29:11-13).

Because not all men will separate themselves to fully take on God's plan of total preservation for themselves here on earth, the Father will necessarily have

to separate those who don't from those who do. That will enable those who do to go forward in higher education without being hindered by those who don't. The separation brought about by the implementing of His plan is the holiness of which He spoke. The sheep must be separated from the goats, but also the sheep must be separated into their respective folds (Matt. 25:31-34, Jhn. 10:16). The measure of His acceptance is the measure in which believers accept those He has sent, hearing and responding to His message (Matt. 25:40, 10:40-41). "Be ye holy, because I am holy", He said. But to the most religious He said, "You are of your father, the devil". One's father, in practice, is the one who leads and teaches and trains. No wonder it was reported that without His holiness, no one shall see God. It all fits together. He does the separating of His child from those who hinder. You do the separating from the influence of the devil.

The word "holy" in Scripture is a stronger word than "sacred", which also has the meaning of separation. Man makes sacred; God makes holy. If man takes on God's plan, that man is holy. It is because what he has taken on is God's plan. It is that which God has worked out that brings about the separation. He requires that you and I learn to make distinction between that which is holy and that which is unholy, between that which is of His plan and that which is not quite (Lev. 10:10). Therefore, be holy, because He is holy - so He can be your Deliverer and Keeper (Lev. 11:45). He does not change. He is your one God and He has the one plan - the Way. You shall have no other God; there is no other Way. And there can be no unrighteousness permitted in His presence. Every kingdom divided against itself will fall, and that He will not permit in His Kingdom, either on earth or in the heavenlies (Lk. 11:17). Blessed and previously holy is each one who takes part in the first resurrection (Rev. 20:6).

Our Savior recited the parable about the individual and generation and nation from which a spirit of uncleanness had been separated. In the parable, a state or level of holiness-separation had become factual. But afterwards, according to the parable, there was no effort made to install a spirit of constructive progress in the plan for Life. The premises were clean and inviting, but remained empty a little too long. The evicted spirit tired of the dry places outside and quickly returned to reestablish residence. This residence was the house or corporate body being readied for Yahweh-Jesus. Seven more wicked spirits joyfully came along, enough to successfully manipulate the development of the later Christian Church body growing out of and replacing the unfaithful Jewish Church (Matt. 12:43-45, 21:43). Seven speaks of the Church from which the Bride of Christ will be taken. The parable has its application today in the Seven Churches of Rev. 2 and 3.

Elsewhere, the Christ spoke of laboring during two of His 1000 year "days" and completing and resting on the third (Lk. 13:32). Today, we are living in the end of that second day and at the start of the third. The third links with the seventh since Adam's fall. By that, we are told it is the much closer adhesion to the Word of God (symbolism of 3) which qualifies one today for being with Him in holiness (symbolism of 7). Whatever our unfilled need, it is due to our lack - lack of light in understanding, lack of exclusive response in love of Him and lack of joy in His enabling Word and care. Where there is lack of joy in His teaching, whether in Word or in environmental situation, there is lack of being fully teachable.

Christ's ministry today is to cast out the spirit of nonconformance, to build strength in good health and to fill up with His holiness. Therefore, keep your loins girded with Truth, remaining virgin to the Bridegroom. Keep your lamps burning so to discern the

holy from the unholy. Where your treasure is, there will be your desire and your joy also, if that treasure is His incorruptible seed of utter righteousness (Eph. 6:14, Lk. 12:35, 34, 1Pet. 1:22-23). Certainly the separating must come, but it is to come for bringing about greater glory and wondrous re-bonding in strength with the Father, specifically for you and for me (Lk. 12:50-51, Jhn. 14:27-28, Lk. 21:34-36).

C. Gordon Wolcott

Who has prepared and done this, inviting the nations from the beginning? I the Lord, the first (in the family) and with the last (even the very last), I am He!..... As for Me, this is My covenant with those who are redeemed and turn from transgression, says the Lord. My Spirit who is upon you and My Words, which I have put in your mouth, shall not depart out of your mouth or out of the mouth of your (true) children or out of the mouth of your children's children, says the Lord, from henceforth and to the eon. So establish (it) and radiate, for your Light is come, and the glory of the Lord radiates upon you. Behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and dense darkness the peoples. But the Lord radiates upon you and His glory shall be seen on you!

Isa. 41:4, 59:20-21, 60:1-2